

April 13, 1983

Memo to File:

RE: Site visit
CATO Placer Sand #1
ACT/019/017
Grand County, Utah

On April 5, 1983, Tom Tetting, Tom Portle, Susan Linner and Pam Grubaugh-Littig of the Division visited the proposed site of the CATO placer sand operation. Also present were Steve McNeal of the State Department of Health, and Jim Adamson of the local health district. A tour of the permit area was led by Lee Cox and Wilford Ruf representing the potential operator.

The current plan is to placer mine 50 acres of land along the Colorado River northeast of the Dewey Bridge near the confluence with the Dolores River. Ultimately, 200 acres could be mined. Sands will be washed and classified on site. Final chemical processing will occur in Salt Lake City. Discharge ponds will be built to settle out sediment from the washing. Water from the ponds will be reused in the process, with no discharge into the river occurring. The applicant has a 4 second-feet water right from the Colorado River, which will supply all process water.

Discharge ponds will be built in the river floodplain area in which mineral rights are disputed between the state and the Bureau of Land Management. The applicants indicated that they would contact Willis Ingraham, the State leaseholder, prior to finalizing pond location. The area is covered by a heavy growth of tamarisk. The applicant proposes to burn the area prior to beginning construction.

The area to be stripped for sands includes part of the floodplain, an area of native vegetation (greasewood, big rabbitbrush and approximately 50 large cottonwood trees) above the flood plain, and a cultivated barley(?) field. Washed sands will be mixed with the natural clay overburden and replaced on-site. The whole area will be graded as level as possible and planted to agricultural crops. The landowner has requested that some old buildings in the cottonwood trees not be disturbed. The applicant plans to leave a buffer zone around the buildings, which will be used as a man-camp for the mine workers.

A review of the mine plan has been sent to the applicant, and it was suggested that a meeting be held as soon as possible to discuss the Division's comments, since the applicant appears eager to begin construction.

SCL
SUSAN C. LINNER
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

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